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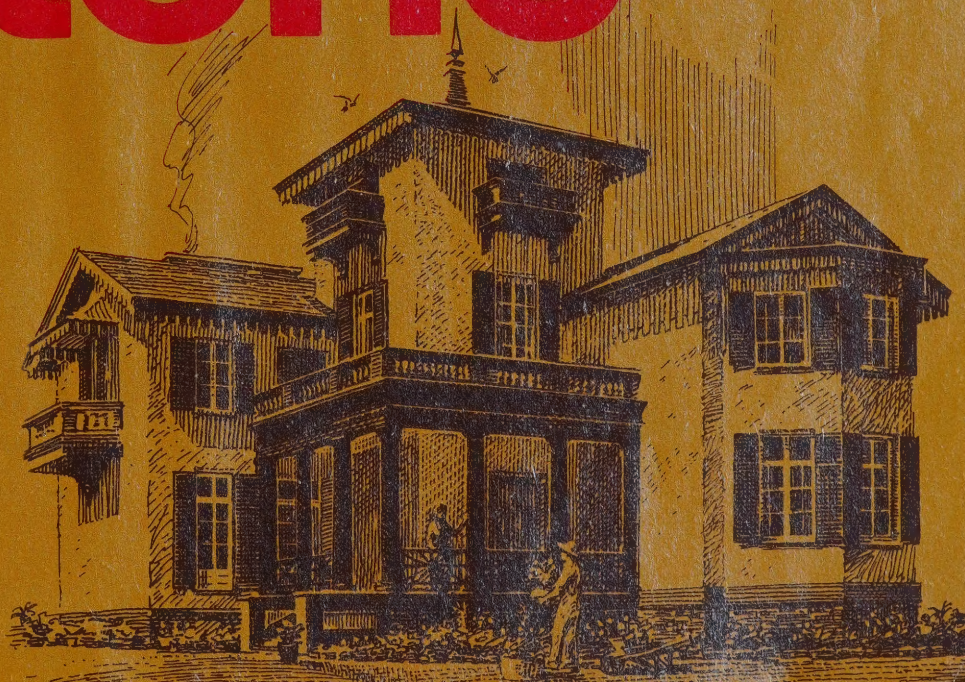
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Historic

Guide to the National
Historic Parks and
Sites of Canada



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Introduction

The national historic parks and sites commemorate people, places and events in Canadian history which have been declared to be of major national significance in the historical development of Canada.

The 56 historic parks and sites described on the following pages are places where our cultural heritage can be experienced first-hand.

From the remains of a Viking settlement at L'Anse aux Meadows and the inventions of Alexander Graham Bell, to the now silent gun batteries of Fort Rodd Hill, each of the parks and sites listed in this guide tells a rich story of Canada's past.

Interpretive programs with guides, displays and audio-visual presentations, offer visitors a better understanding and appreciation of Canada's history. In parks such as the Fortress of Louisbourg

and Lower Fort Garry, men, women and children dressed in period costume, give visitors a glimpse of what life was like in another century.

Many national historic parks and sites are open year-round but the majority are only open to visitors during the summer season, from mid-spring to early fall. Exact opening and closing dates and hours of operation can be obtained by writing to one of Parks Canada's regional offices (see inside cover).

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of Canada**

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1 Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Park

Victoria, British Columbia

Fort Rodd Hill overlooks the entrance to Esquimalt Harbour. From 1896 to 1956 its gun batteries served as part of the defence system for the west coast of Canada before technical advances rendered coastal artillery obsolete.

Fisgard Lighthouse, located a short distance offshore and accessible by a narrow causeway, was the first to be erected on Canada's west coast. Built in 1859, the lighthouse consists of a tower nearly 14 m high and two-storey lightkeeper's quarters, unoccupied since 1929.

Since the lighthouse is still operational, visitors are not permitted inside the tower. However, interpretive displays and guides recount the history of the lighthouse and fort.

Visitors can walk along a self-guided tour of Fort Rodd Hill on which interpretive signs explain the history of coastal defences in the area. Fort Rodd Hill is open year-round.

2 St. Roch National Historic Site

Vancouver, British Columbia

The St. Roch, a short, two-masted schooner, was described by her skipper as "an ugly duckling". However, as an arctic supply and patrol vessel for 26 years, the ship and its crew did much to establish Canadian sovereignty in the north. She also has the distinction of being the first ship to sail the Northwest Passage in both directions and to circumnavigate North America.

Built in Vancouver in 1928, the St. Roch carried out annual patrol and supply voyages in the western arctic for two decades. Her sturdy hull was built of thick Douglas fir, reinforced with heavy beams. An outer sheath of Australian "iron bark" added the finishing touch and helped to protect the ship from dangerous ice floes.

On the first voyage through the Northwest Passage, the ship left Vancouver in June, 1940, on what was to be an almost 28-month journey. Twice trapped by ice, the St. Roch did not reach Halifax until October, 1942. The return trip took only 86 days.

In 1950 when the ship was transferred to Halifax, the voyage was made through the Panama Canal, making it the first vessel to sail completely around North America. The St. Roch was retired four years later and was put on display in drydock at the Vancouver Maritime Museum in 1958. The ship was declared a National Historic Site in 1962 and was restored by Parks Canada.

The St. Roch is now located in the Vancouver Maritime Museum where audio-visual presentations and guides describe the vessel's illustrious past.

3 Fort Langley National Historic Park

Fort Langley, British Columbia

40 km southeast of Vancouver

Built along the mighty Fraser River by the Hudson's Bay Company, Fort Langley played a major role in the development of what is now the province of British Columbia.

The fort was first constructed four kilometres downriver in 1827 and was moved to its present location in 1839. It burned shortly afterward and was rebuilt the following year.



Fort Langley

Fort Langley prospered in the 1850's, when it pioneered an all-British route to the interior becoming the supply depot for inland posts. When gold was discovered on the Fraser River, the fort serviced prospectors who poured into the area.

Part of the fort has been reconstructed to its appearance in the 1850's, including the wooden palisade surrounding the fort, one of the covered bastions and some of the buildings. The reconstructed officer's quarters, referred to as the Big House, has period furnishings on the ground floor and an exhibit on the upper level.

Blacksmiths and carpenters once worked in the artisans' building where the visitor can see how barrels were made for packing salmon. Furs, trade goods and provisions can be found in the store building.

Fort Langley is open year-round. An admission fee is charged.

4 Fort St. James National Historic Park

161 km northwest of Prince George,

British Columbia

Fort St. James was established in 1806 by Simon Fraser for the North West Company. It continued to serve as the headquarters in the New Caledonia District, now central British Columbia, when the North West and Hudson's Bay companies amalgamated in 1821.

As the chief post in the New Caledonia District, Fort St. James conducted its own fur trade and also collected furs from throughout the territory and shipped them out by the Fraser River. Life in the remote region was marked by hard work and a monotonous diet of dried salmon.

Five buildings, all dating from 1884-89, are still standing. These log and Red River frame structures are the general warehouse, fish cache, men's house, dwelling house and dairy. Among the reconstructed features are several buildings, the wharf and track used to haul cargo from the schooners to the warehouse, fences that criss-crossed through the site and the boardwalks that linked the buildings.

In addition to the period exhibits located in the buildings there are displays and audio-visual presentations in a modern interpretation centre.

Fort St. James is open year-round.

5 Rocky Mountain House National Historic Park

*Rocky Mountain House, Alberta
200 km southwest of Edmonton*

On the banks of the North Saskatchewan River within sight of the Rocky Mountains, the North West and Hudson's Bay companies maintained a series of fur trading posts between 1799 and 1875. All that remain are fragile archaeological fragments and two reconstructed stone chimneys from the final post erected in 1865-68.

The rival companies intended to attract the Kootenay Indians from the mountains, while the North West Company also planned to use its post as a base of exploration for a practical route to the Pacific. The Kootenay trade did not materialize, but David Thompson successfully crossed the Rockies from the North West Company post. Following the 1821 merger of the two companies, the revitalized Hudson's Bay Company retained a post there to obtain the trade of the Blackfoot, Peigan and other northern Plains Indians.

Replicas of a York Boat and Red River Cart display the principal modes of transportation used by the traders to carry furs, provisions and trade goods. Exhibits and audio-visual programs in a trailer tell the history of Rocky Mountain House.

Rocky Mountain House is open from the first Sunday in May to Labour Day.



6 Robert Service Cabin

Dawson City, Yukon Territory

Although Robert Service did not personally experience the Klondike Gold Rush, his poetry has kept alive the spirit of those wild, adventurous days at the turn of the century.

Born in England, Robert Service emigrated to Canada in 1896. After working at various jobs along the west coast, he was hired as a clerk by the Bank of Commerce in Vancouver. In 1904 he was transferred to the Commerce bank at Whitehorse in the Yukon. Inspired by the North and its people, he began writing poetry.

By the time he was relocated to Dawson in 1908, Service had successfully published a collection of poems. He lived in Dawson from 1908 to 1912 working as a banker for a year and a half before devoting himself full-time to writing. Service lived and wrote in a small two-room log cabin set on a mountain slope overlooking the Yukon River valley.

Robert Service left Dawson in 1912 to become a war correspondent in the Balkan Wars. Most of his later life was spent in Europe and he died in France in 1958 at the age of 84.

The cabin where he lived has been restored to the period of his occupancy. Moose antlers are mounted on the porch roof while inside both the sitting room and bedroom are simply but comfortably furnished. An animation program features regular reading of Service's poetry.

7 Yukon Historic Sites

Yukon Territory

In August 1896, gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek (now Bonanza Creek) which flows into the Klondike River. Prospectors and miners poured into the Klondike and, for a brief time, transformed the once quiet area into one of the busiest and noisiest places in the world. This colourful chapter in Canadian history is recalled in the several Yukon historic sites, most of which are located in Dawson City.

During the summer of 1898, the city and gold sites had more than 30 000 residents. Dawson quickly became the service, supply and entertainment centre for the mining area. However, of those who came to the gold fields, few achieved great wealth. Within a few years the rush had eased and Dawson's population declined as rapidly as it had risen.

Nearly 550 km south of Dawson, an international historic park traces the trail of 1898. In Canada it will include the Chilkoot Trail and the remains of the camp at Lake Bennett. Signs mark significant points along the way.

In Dawson City the Palace Grand Theatre has been reconstructed, and the post office, the cabin of poet Robert Service and the sternwheeler S.S. Keno, have all been restored. In addition to tours of the sites, the Klondike Visitors' Association sponsors special programs. One of these is the "Gaslight Follies" a nightly live theatre presentation at the Palace Grand.

In Whitehorse, the stern-wheeler S.S. Klondike has been declared a national historic site to commemorate the importance of river transportation in the Canadian north.



Dawson City



8 Cypress Hills Massacre

Maple Creek, Saskatchewan

171 km southwest of Swift Current

In the spring of 1873, the blood of Indian men, women and children ran in the valley of Battle Creek in the Cypress Hills, when an Assiniboine camp was attacked.

12 A group of wolf hunters were on their way home to Montana when about 40 of their horses were stolen by a band of Crees. The enraged men pursued the thieves but lost their trail in the Cypress Hills. Scouts sent ahead to the Indian camp located near Farwell's Trading Post, found no trace of the stolen horses and the party decided to camp near the post.

When another horse was reported missing the next day, the hunters, surmising it had been stolen, set out to confront the Indians and retrieve the horse. Firing broke out and in the ensuing battle about 20 Indians were killed. What remained of the camp after the survivors had fled was put to the torch.

Attempts by American and Canadian authorities to bring the participants in the massacre to justice were thwarted by conflicting testimonies of witnesses. Those finally tried for murder were acquitted.

Although the actual site of the massacre is closed to visitors, guides in period costume conduct tours of Farwell's Trading Post which was reconstructed in 1967. A three-kilometre trail along the ridge top overlooking Battle Creek leads to Fort Walsh National Historic Park.

9 Fort Walsh National Historic Park

Maple Creek, Saskatchewan

171 km southwest of Swift Current

In the summer of 1875, "B" Division of the North-West Mounted Police under the command of Superintendent James M. Walsh, built a fort in the Cypress Hills. The setting was a broad valley on the banks of Battle Creek about three kilometres above the site of the Cypress Hills Massacre, where approximately 20 Assiniboine Indians were killed by a group of whites in 1873.

The fort was built in the hills to suppress the whisky trade and to establish contact with the Indians of the area.

The mounted police successfully negotiated the return to the United States of Sitting Bull and the Sioux who had taken refuge in Canada after the Battle of the Little Bighorn. In 1883 when most of the Plains Indians had settled on reserves, the post was abandoned.

More than half a century later, in 1942, the R.C.M.P. established a horse ranch on the site of Fort Walsh and ranch buildings were constructed in the style of the original fort. In 1967 Farwell's and Solomon's trading posts were reconstructed near the site of the Cypress Hills massacre as part of the R.C.M.P. centennial celebrations.



Visitors are given guided tours of the fort's buildings, the Fort Walsh townsite and the two cemeteries. A recently-constructed visitor reception centre introduces the park and its history through exhibits and audio-visual presentations.

10 Battleford National Historic Park

*Battleford, Saskatchewan
153 km northwest of Saskatoon*

In the last quarter of the 19th century, law and order in the west was the responsibility of the North-West Mounted Police. A number of posts were erected in the territories including the one constructed at Battleford in 1876 which served as a divisional headquarters for the Saskatchewan District.

When native discontent broke into rebellion in the spring of 1885, a police detachment left Battleford to reinforce Fort Carleton against possible attack. Fearing an Indian attack, the townspeople of Battleford sought refuge in the police post. However the anticipated attack never came.

The rebellion was suppressed by Canadian troops led by Major-General Middleton. A number of Indians were tried at Battleford and eight were hanged. With peace restored, the police returned to their normal duties such as renovating buildings at the post. The post was finally abandoned in 1924.

Displays are located in the officers' quarters and in Barracks Five. Exhibits of particular interest are an 1876 Gatling gun, police uniforms and artifacts of the Plains Indian culture.

11 Batoche National Historic Site

*Batoche, Saskatchewan
88 km northeast of Saskatoon*

The small village of Batoche served as the headquarters for the Métis during the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 and was the scene of the last battle of that uprising.

Long-suffering frustration and discontent over land claims led to the Métis uprising in Saskatchewan. In 1869 Louis Riel had led the Métis in the formation of a provisional government at Red River which resulted in the Canadian Government's partial recognition of the Métis land claims. Sixteen years later, similar circumstances arose on the Saskatchewan River where armed resistance led to bloodshed.

The first major encounter came on March 26, 1885 when Métis clashed with a company of North-West Mounted Police at Duck Lake. Twelve policemen died in a bloody skirmish. The Canadian Government sent an army to quell the uprising. Soldiers led by Major-General Middleton were engaged by a party of Métis and Indians at Fish Creek and suffered severe casualties in the encounter.

14 The climax came at Batoche where an assault by the army lasting four days succeeded in ending the rebellion. Louis Riel, captured on May 15, was tried and found guilty of treason and was hanged at the Mounted Police barracks in Regina on November 16, 1885.

Today, little remains of the original settlement of Batoche. A segment of the trenches used by Middleton's army along with the Rectory, which houses a small historical museum, and the parish church of St. Antoine de Padoue, have been preserved.

12 Fort Espérance National Historic Site
222 km east of Regina, Saskatchewan
Fort Espérance was one of the North West Company's most important provision posts in the Assiniboine River district. Métis and Plains Indians regularly supplied the North West Company with bison hides and with meat, from which was made pemmican, a mixture of dried meat and melted fat that served as a staple for European fur traders on trips to the more northerly posts.

The first Fort Espérance was used from 1787 to 1810. Rivalry with the Hudson's Bay Company twice forced relocations along the Qu'Appelle River before a post was again built at this location in 1816. It too was abandoned in 1819.

Fort Espérance National Historic Site preserves the remains of the first fort, situated beside the river, as well as the last fort which was built on a small rise higher up the bank. Although a few depressions indicate the presence of cellars, most of the early site is now a ploughed field. Of the upper post, remains of fireplaces and cellars are clearly visible, while a depression marks the location of a stockade.



Both posts are commemorated by a symbolic monument that displays a bronze bison head and a bronze beaver hide, marked with pictographs.

Fort Espérance National Historic Site is open year-round.

13 Lower Fort Garry National Historic Park

30 km north of Winnipeg, Manitoba

Lower Fort Garry was originally built by the Hudson's Bay Company after Fort Garry was ruined by flooding in 1826. It served as a trans-shipment and provisioning post and became the most successful agricultural venture in what was then called Rupert's Land.

Military detachments were stationed here between 1846 and 1848 and again in 1870 after the Red River uprising, but the fort was never attacked. The first Canadian-Indian treaty was signed here in 1871.

Lower Fort Garry was also used as the first headquarters for the North West Mounted Police, a penitentiary, a "lunatic asylum" and finally as a golf and country club until 1963.

The fort has been restored and its buildings refurnished in the style of the mid-19th century. Its grey limestone walls with round corner bastions enclose a number of stone and timber structures. Outstanding among them is the Big House, furnished as in the 1850's when the Company's Associate Governor lived there. Other buildings are a blacksmith's shop, warehouse, men's house, doctor's office, fur-loft/sales shop building and engineer's cottage.

Exhibits include a Red River cart, a York boat, a fur display and one of the oldest surviving Red River frame buildings in Western Canada.

A new visitor reception centre containing displays and audio-visual shows will soon be opened. A museum is located in a replica of the retail store. During the summer, men and women dressed in period costume re-enact daily life at the fort.

Lower Fort Garry is open from May 10 until Thanksgiving Day.

An admission fee is charged.

14 Fort Prince of Wales National Historic Park

Churchill, Manitoba

Located at the mouth of the Churchill River, this great stone fort was built by the Hudson's Bay Company in the 18th century to protect its fur-trading interests in the far north.

Although construction began in 1731, the fort was not completed until 1771. Two years later, Samuel Hearne, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, set out from Fort Prince of Wales on his overland expedition to the Arctic Ocean.

In spite of its formidable appearance the fort was never manned or armed for serious warfare. In 1782, when three French warships appeared in the Bay, Hearne, then governor of the fort, immediately surrendered the under-garrisoned post. The French tried to blow up the fort but were unsuccessful. The fort was never re-occupied.

The walls of the restored fort, measuring 9 to 12 m thick at the base and 6 m high, connect four bastions. A number of cannons standing on the raised gun gallery and the shells of several structures, including a barracks, stores building and governor's quarters, greet visitors to the site.

Fort Prince of Wales is accessible by boat or in the winter by snowmobile from the nearby town of Churchill. Boat trips to the fort can be arranged at the

18 tourist reception centre in Churchill.

15 York Factory National Historic Park *Churchill, Manitoba*

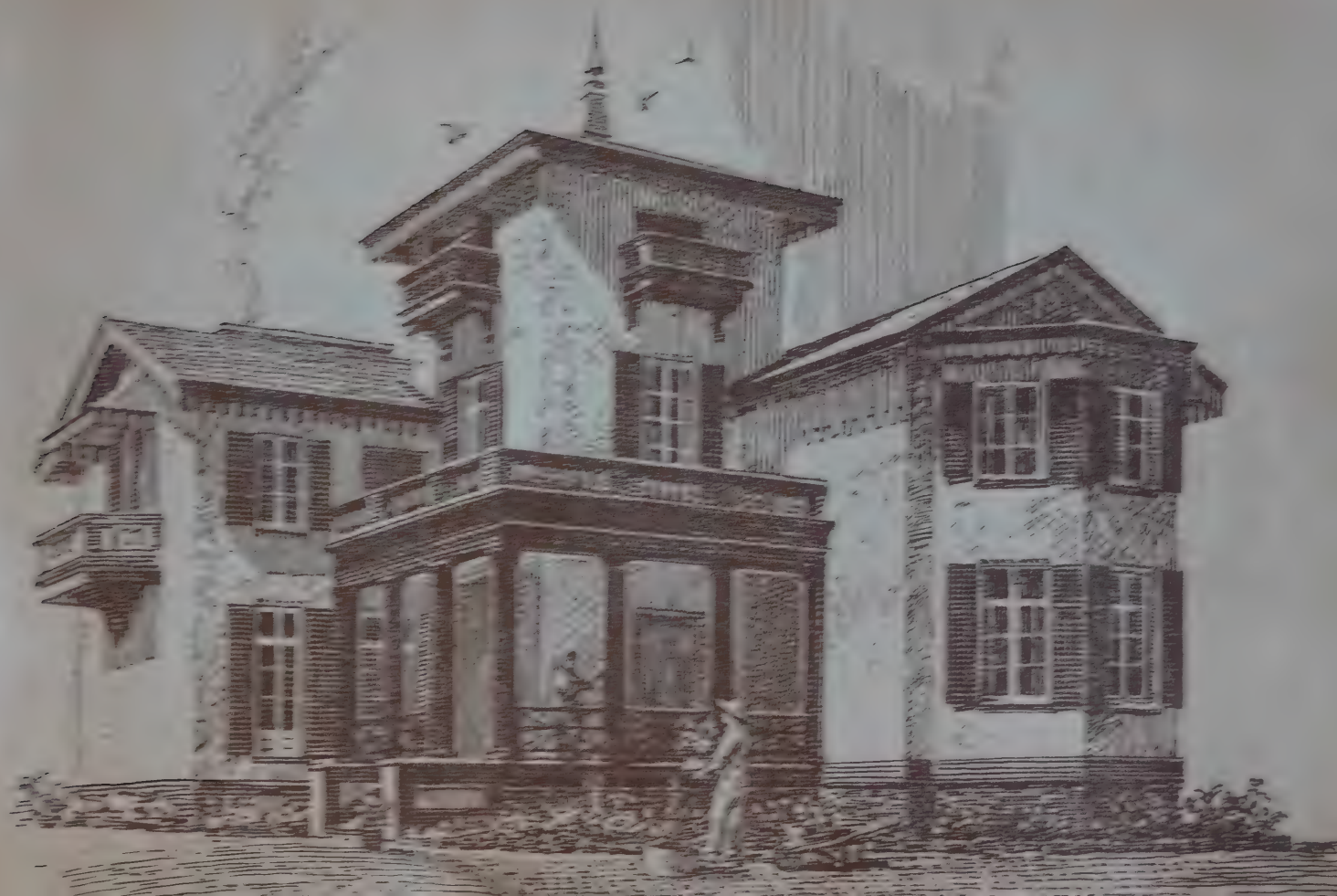
When York Factory closed its doors as a trading post in 1957, it signalled the end of an era. For much of its 275 year history, the fort, located on the shore of Hudson's Bay at the mouth of the Hayes River, served as one of the most important fur-trade supply centres in North America.

The Hudson's Bay Company first established a post here in 1682. Wars with France and the ravages of nature led to frequent rebuilding and relocation of the post. It was built finally on the present site in 1788.

After the merger of the Hudson's Bay and North West companies in 1821, York Factory replaced Montreal as the major shipment depot for North American furs heading to England. Increased business and periodic flooding forced the construction of new buildings, including the existing depot, built in the 1830's. By the end of the 19th century the post's importance had declined and the buildings either deteriorated or were torn down, except for the depot building.

York Factory's central feature is the depot building. Exhibits of artifacts are to be found on the main floor and displays of the fort and a photo exhibit are located on the upper floor.

Due to its inaccessibility, York Factory is visited mainly by those who fly in on charter aircraft or who travel by canoe. Guides are present during the summer to interpret the park's history for visitors.



16 Fort St. Joseph National Historic Park

St. Joseph Island, Ontario

*48 km southeast of Sault Ste. Marie,
off Highway 17*

Fort St. Joseph is located on a small headland at the southwest tip of St. Joseph Island. The site was chosen by the British in 1796 for their post in the Upper Great Lakes region.

As the headquarters of the British Indian Department and the meeting place of hundreds of warriors from the Upper Great Lakes Indian Nations, Fort St. Joseph was considered a formidable base for operations in the old northwest.

When the Americans declared war on Great Britain in 1812, the British at Fort St. Joseph heard the news before the Americans at Michilimackinac. A force of regular soldiers, Canadian volunteers and Indians captured the American fort.

Only a small guard was left at Fort St. Joseph and eventually the fort was abandoned. An American force on its way to attack Michilimackinac in 1814 burned Fort St. Joseph. Over the years all but the stone powder magazine and a chimney disappeared under a blanket of earth.

Archaeological excavations at the site have revealed the outlines of palisades and the foundations of several buildings, including a blockhouse, guardhouse, two bakeries and some traders' huts. The uncovered foundations of the blockhouse walls and the two large chimneys in the blockhouse are an impressive sight.

A visitor reception centre is under construction and will house displays.

17 Fort Malden National Historic Park

Amherstburg, Ontario

32 km south of Windsor

In 1796, after the British abandoned Detroit under the terms of Jay's Treaty, they established a new base on the Detroit River in present-day Amherstburg. Fort Malden became a major base for operations on the Detroit frontier during the War of 1812 and the Rebellion of 1837.

The first fort was a large, square, picketed enclosure with four earthen bastions and served as headquarters for the British army and the British Indian Department in the Detroit area. In 1812, British regulars, Canadian militia and Indians based at Fort Malden launched a successful attack on Detroit and later made several raids into American territory.

In September, 1813, the defeat of the British fleet in the Battle of Lake Erie forced the garrison to burn the fort and retreat from the area.

American troops occupied the ruins of Fort Malden. Following the War of 1812, the British reoccupied Amherstburg and built a smaller fort. Eventually this too was allowed to fall into ruin.

During the Rebellion of 1837, Fort Malden was repaired and several new buildings were constructed. The fort continued to be garrisoned until 1855. From 1859 to 1870 the site was used as a provincial "lunatic asylum".

In 1875 when no further use could be found for Fort Malden, the land was subdivided and sold at a public auction. Gradually the fort buildings were destroyed. The federal government acquired part of the site of the fort in 1939.

Today most of the original fort lies within the park's boundaries. Visitors can view the remains of one of the bastions, a restored pensioner's cottage and an original 1820 barracks building which has been restored. A large stone building from the asylum period houses exhibits on the fort's history and an interpretation centre contains a theatre and exhibit gallery.

Fort Malden is open year-round.

18 Woodside National Historic Park

Kitchener, Ontario

Woodside, the boyhood home of William Lyon Mackenzie King, Canada's 10th Prime Minister, has been restored to the period of the early 1890's when the King family lived here. It is a rambling Victorian brick house, originally built in 1853 and located on spacious tree-covered grounds in Kitchener (at that time the village of Berlin).

Woodside was leased to John King, a lawyer of means, from 1886 to 1893. His wife, Isabel, was the daughter of William Lyon Mackenzie, leader of the abortive rebellion of 1837 in Upper Canada (Ontario). The Kings' four children, the second of whom was William (Willie), held fond memories of the time they lived at Woodside, although they never owned the property.

Some of the furnishings in the two-storey 10-room house were bought by the King family while the rest are articles from that period. Among the family's unique possessions are mementoes of their famous ancestor, William Lyon Mackenzie.

Guides in period costume interpret the home and its furnishings and a modern exhibit tells the story of Mackenzie King.

19 Fort George National Historic Park

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

Situated on the west side of the Niagara River about two kilometres from Lake Ontario, Fort George occupied an important position during the War of 1812.

As British military headquarters for the Niagara Frontier, Fort George was actively involved in battles with the Americans. Artillery duels were fought with nearby Fort Niagara and in October of 1812 troops from Fort George defeated the Americans at Queenston Heights.

A combined land and naval bombardment and assault by the Americans levelled the fort in May, 1813. The victors built a fort over the ruins and held it until December of the same year when the British regained control. Before departing the retreating Americans burned Newark (Niagara-on-the-Lake). In retaliation, the British burned Buffalo and ravaged the American shore.

Fort George is open from mid-May to October 31.

An admission fee is charged.

After the war, the newly constructed Fort Mississauga and Butler's Barracks replaced Fort George.

The fort has been reconstructed to the period of British occupation between 1796 and 1813. Its extensive layout consists of six small earthen bastions connected by cedar picketing, the whole surrounded by a dry ditch.

A stone magazine dates from 1796-97. All other buildings are of timber construction. They include the officers' quarters, officers' kitchen, artificer shop, sawpit, blockhouses and a guardhouse. Period displays offer an insight into life at the fort.

20 Butler's Barracks

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

The destruction of Fort George by the Americans in 1813, proved how vulnerable the site was to bombardment by enemy guns. Following the war, the British began work on a group of buildings across the plain behind the fort. By 1852 at least 20 timber structures had been erected, serving as storehouses, barracks and offices. The barracks, store, gunshed and commissariat officer's quarters are the only structures still standing today.

The name of Butler's Barracks was derived from an earlier complex built near the Niagara River to house Butler's Rangers. Overcrowding at Fort Niagara had prompted its construction in 1778. Additions were made towards the end of the century but before 1800 a fire gutted most of the buildings. What remained was undoubtedly destroyed during the 1813 bombardment.

The structures in the second Butler's Barracks were built after 1815 and were used until the mid-1860s by the British military. From 1871, when the British troops were withdrawn from Canada, until the 1960's, Butler's Barracks was used by the Canadian army for training purposes in times of war and peace.

The remaining buildings of Butler's Barracks will be restored to contain exhibits illustrating the history of the site.

Butler's Barracks will not be open to the public until the end of 1978.



21 Queenston Heights and Brock's Monument

Niagara Falls, Ontario

A major battle of the War of 1812, which resulted in a victory for the British over an invading American army, was fought at Queenston Heights which overlooks the Niagara River.

Before dawn on the morning of October 13, 1812, an army of American soldiers crossed the Niagara River from Lewiston to make a surprise attack on the town of Queenston. Although they caught the British off-guard and outnumbered them, the Americans failed to break into the village. One group managed to climb to the top of the heights without being seen by the British. Swooping down on the battery, an important defensive position, they drove out Major-General Sir Isaac Brock and his men.

Determined to retake the battery, Brock led a charge up the hill but was struck down by a sharpshooter's bullet.

Later, British reinforcements from Fort George and Chippewa outflanked the Americans on the heights and won the battle. The British succeeded in stopping an American invasion but lost their most capable commander.

A tall columnar monument marks the graves of Brock and his aide-de-camp, Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonell. A narrow, winding staircase leads to a tiny observation deck inside the monument. At the base of the monument a small room houses plaques commemorating the soldiers who fell in the battle. Details of the battle are presented along the self-guided walking tour of the area. A brochure, available at the monument, describes the series of eight markers that have been erected along the route.

22 Kingston Martello Towers

Kingston, Ontario

Kingston was recognized by the British as a vital link in maintaining naval operations on the Great Lakes. After the War of 1812 plans were made to improve the harbour defences which led to the erection of four round stone towers between 1845 and 1848. Today only Murney Tower is open to the public.

The exterior of the 11 m high limestone structure is highlighted at its base by four extensions, called caponiers. Musket fire could be directed through loopholes in these domed passages, providing cover for the ditch surrounding the tower. A high stone wall, protected by an embankment, fronts on the lake side of the ditch.

Murney Tower, located on King Street West, not far from Bellevue House, is operated by the Kingston Historical Society and is open from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving Day. Displays are mounted inside and there are guides during the summer months. A small admission fee is charged.

23 Bellevue House National Historic Park

Kingston, Ontario

In 1848-49 Bellevue House was the home of John A. Macdonald who later became Canada's first Prime Minister.

The house was built between 1838 and 1840 by Charles Hales, a Kingston grocer, from whose trade it received its nickname of "Tea Caddy Castle". In August 1848 it was rented to John A. Macdonald, Kingston's member of the
22 Legislative Assembly and Receiver General for Ontario.

The Macdonald's brief stay at Bellevue House was not a happy one. Macdonald's wife Isabella, who had been ailing for several years, was confined to a ground floor sick-room. An infant son John died a month after they moved in. Setbacks in John A.'s law practice forced the family to move to more modest quarters after only a year.

Macdonald went on to become leader of the Conservative Party and was one of the chief architects of Confederation in 1867. He was knighted by Queen Victoria and became the first Prime Minister of Canada.

Bellevue House was acquired by Parks Canada in 1964 and was restored to its appearance when Sir John A. lived there. Situated on landscaped grounds, the villa features broad overhanging eaves, decorative balconies and a square central tower. In addition to exhibits located on the main floor, guides dressed in period costume describe the history of the house and its most famous occupant.

A large garden yields poppies, zinnias, corn, cabbage, lettuce, squash, tobacco, beans, tomatoes and other vegetables and flowers grown in Kingston during the 1840s.

24 Battle of the Windmill

Highway 2 near Prescott Ontario

After the rebellion of 1837 a group of Canadian "patriots" living in the United States joined with American sympathizers in an attempt to attack Fort Wellington. In a battle which lasted five days in November, 1838, heavy casualties were suffered on both sides.

The attack was ill-fated from the start. As the men landed at Prescott an alarm was sounded. While retreating, one of the schooners ran aground just off Windmill Point. The other returned to the American shore but failed to bring back reinforcements. The landed party was forced to seek refuge in a nearby windmill whose walls, measuring one metre in thickness, made it a practically impenetrable defence.

Led by Nils von Schoultz, the insurgents held fast for five days despite a massive rally by the British involving 2 000 men, four gun boats, three heavily armed steamers and one field cannon.

Inadequate supplies, cold weather and recognition of their hopeless situation finally forced the invaders to surrender on November 16.

Of the 190 invaders who fought in the battle, many were wounded or killed. Von Schoultz and 10 others were hanged, some were exiled to Australia and the rest were allowed to return to their homes.

Today a beacon has been mounted on the roof and the windmill is used as a navigational aid. The inside of the tower is not open to the public.

25 Fort Wellington National Historic Park

Prescott, Ontario

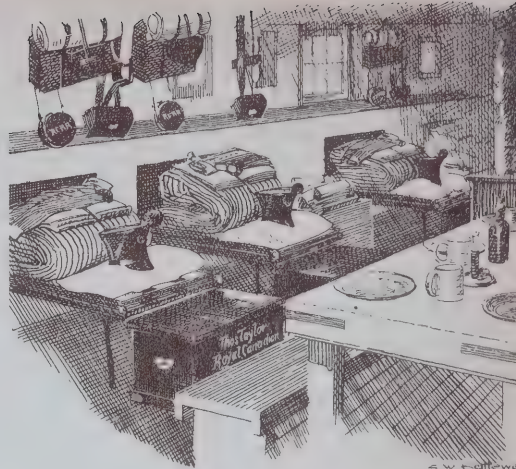
88 km southeast of Ottawa

The first Fort Wellington at Prescott was built during the War of 1812 to help protect the vital St. Lawrence transportation route. In February 1813, its garrison marched across the frozen St. Lawrence to capture the American fort at Ogdensburg, New York.

In 1837 rebellion broke out in Upper Canada. The British army completely rebuilt Fort Wellington, which had been abandoned and allowed to fall into ruins.

In November, 1838, while the fort was still under construction, a force of rebel "patriots" and American sympathizers landed at Windmill Point, downriver from Prescott. The small garrison in the fort, reinforced by troops from Brockville, Cornwall and Kingston, defeated the rebels after a five-day battle.

After the rebellion, Fort Wellington was used as an armoury and its garrison consisted of a company of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment. In 1870, the garrison was withdrawn. Fort Wellington was transferred to the Department of the Interior and became a national historic park in 1923.



The historic buildings of Fort Wellington have been restored to the period when the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment was stationed here. The blockhouse is the largest in Canada and has been refurnished to represent its original function as a combination barracks, armoury and magazine. The officers' quarters have also been refurnished.

Other original features which can be seen by visitors include the fort's massive earthworks and an underground stone caponier, designed to defend the flank of the fort. Modern facilities include an audio-visual theatre and an exhibit on the fort's history.

26 The Rideau Canal

The Rideau Canal was built after the War of 1812 to provide an alternate shipping route to Upper Canada (now Ontario) in the event of a future American attack. Lieutenant-Colonel John By of the Royal Engineers supervised the construction of the canal system which linked Bytown (now Ottawa) and Kingston.

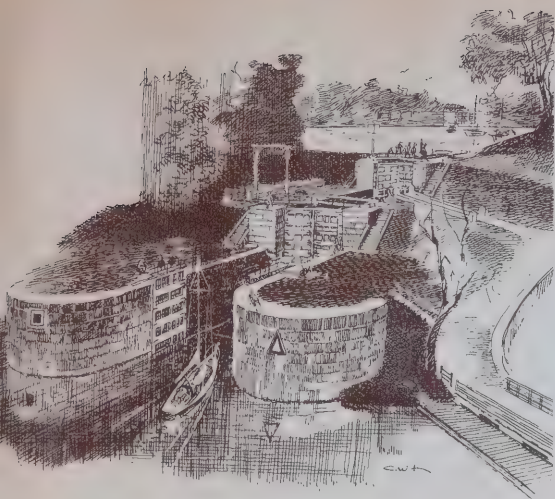
The canal system was opened in the summer of 1832 and served as an important commercial route for the country until the 1850's. Today the Rideau Canal continues to serve as a transportation route.

During the summer all kinds of pleasure boats, from luxury yachts to canoes, travel the waterway once plied by barges and steamers in the 19th century. In the winter, several miles of the canal in Ottawa are transformed into a giant skating rink.

The canal is also a major historic tourist attraction. Thousands of visitors travel by boat or canoe along the canal and increasing numbers of people are enjoying the waterway on land, by foot, bicycle and automobile. The hand-operated machinery, massive wooden gates and cutstone walls have been retained and preserve the historic atmosphere of the canal system.

Visitors can learn about the canal's military history by visiting the blockhouses and stone lockmasters' houses which were originally designed as fortifications. Roads run parallel to the canal along most of its 198 km length and all of the lock stations are accessible by road.

Interpretive programs are offered at various lock stations between mid-May and mid-October.



27 Bethune Memorial House

*Gravenhurst, Ontario
160 km north of Toronto*

Bethune Memorial House was the birthplace of Norman Bethune, a Canadian medical doctor who made significant contributions as a researcher and surgeon both in Canada and abroad. In China, where Bethune achieved some of his greatest work, his name has been preserved in the writings of Mao Tse-tung and numerous memorials have been erected to him.

The two-storey minister's residence has been restored in the style of 1890 when Dr. Bethune was born here. The rooms on the main floor have been refurnished to reflect the tastes and habits of the Bethune family. On the second floor is a biographical display portraying Dr. Bethune's life through the use of illustrations and quotations.

Norman Bethune designed surgical instruments, undertook medical research and performed surgical operations. In Montreal during the Depression, he organized a medical group which promoted socialized medicine in Canada.

In 1936, he went to Spain to treat the wounded in the Spanish Civil War, and developed a mobile blood transfusion service there which collected blood and transported it to the wounded at the battle fronts.

After returning briefly to Canada, Bethune set off again in 1938 for China. For the next twenty-two months he worked in the isolated mountain areas where the battle front was constantly shifting. He gave unstintingly of himself, teaching, operating, and initiating a program to train doctors.

Norman Bethune died in 1939 of blood poisoning, the result of an infection contracted while operating. Today he is venerated in China as a dedicated humanitarian.

Bethune Memorial House, located on Hughson Street in Gravenhurst, is open year-round.



C. W. Kettwell

28 Fort Témiscamingue

National Historic Park

Ville Marie, Quebec

690 km northwest of Montreal

Fort Témiscamingue, built by the French in response to British competition in the fur trade during the late 17th century, thrived for more than two centuries.

As discoverers of the lucrative beaver fur trade in North America, the French enjoyed a trading monopoly with the Indians. When four English forts were built at James Bay in 1668, the Indians began trading at those nearby posts instead of with French merchants in Montreal.

A group of Montreal merchants founded the Compagnie du Nord and began operating in the Hudson Bay area in 1685. Fort Témiscamingue was built on an island, now submerged, at the narrows of Lake Témiscamingue. The post was visited in 1686 by a French military expedition under the Chevalier de Troyes, on its way to capture three English forts on Hudson Bay.

There is reason to believe that the Iroquois raided Lake Témiscamingue and killed all the Frenchman at the post in 1680. The fort seems to have been restored soon after, but was closed by Governor Frontenac because its trade was undermining that of Montreal.

In 1720 Fort Témiscamingue was re-established, probably on the original site. After the fall of New France in 1760, British merchants penetrated to Lake Témiscamingue. By the 1790s Fort Témiscamingue was in the hands of the North West Company, and in 1821 it passed to the Hudson's Bay Company.

Fort Témiscamingue declined after the mid-1830's as beaver habitats were destroyed by lumbering activities in the area and beaver hats went out of style. The fort was finally abandoned in 1901.

All that remain of the post are a few stone fireplaces and a cemetery. Displays in the twenty-seven hectare park tell the history of the fort and the fur trade.

29 Coteau-du-lac National Historic Park

58 km southwest of Montreal

Before the advent of modern dam and canal systems, rapids were an obstacle to the movement of ships and supplies along the St. Lawrence. The first canal built along the river was constructed at the junction of the Delisle and St. Lawrence rivers in 1779-80 to bypass one of these stretches of rough water.

Coteau-du-lac National Historic Park, contains remains of this canal as well as a British military post that dates from the War of 1812.

The canal was protected on the landward approach by a wet ditch, earthworks and gun platforms. An octagonal blockhouse, constructed of squared logs, and a cloverleaf-shaped bastion were set by the river channel. Three 24-pound cannons are mounted today beside a reconstruction of the blockhouse. Inside are displays recounting the park's history.

Construction of hydro dams has lowered the St. Lawrence so that it no longer flows through Coteau-du-lac. Of the former canal, only the lock gate sills and the masonry bottom course of the canal remain. On either side of the canal, which bisects the park, are ruins of warehouses, a hospital, powder magazine, commandant's quarters and other buildings.

Coteau-du-lac is open from May 1 to October 31.



30 Maison Sir Wilfrid Laurier National Historic Site

St. Lin, Quebec

56 km north of Montreal

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's seventh Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Party for 32 years, spent his childhood in the village of St. Lin, north of Montreal. One of his earliest homes was a small brick veneer building with a sloping roof and a front verandah. Now a national historic site, the house has been restored to the period of the early 1850's.

Born in 1841, Laurier was educated at New Glasgow school and L'Assomption College before attending law school at McGill University. He practised law and ran a newspaper in Arthabaskaville between 1866 and 1871.

His political career was launched when he was elected to the provincial legislature in 1871. Laurier won a seat in the House of Commons in 1874, became leader of the Liberal Party in 1877 and served as Prime Minister from 1896 to 1911. He was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1897.

Laurier is perhaps best remembered for his efforts to strengthen Canadian unity by striving for a closer co-operation between English and French Canada. He died in 1919 at the age of 78.

The Laurier house was made a national historic site November 20, 1941, on the 100th anniversary of the Prime Minister's birth. A large living room, dining room, kitchen and master bedroom occupy the lower floor of the building, while upstairs are a bedroom and a workroom used for spinning and weaving.

A small exhibit centre is located at the site while inside the house, women dressed in period costume relate the history of the house and of its famous occupant and display techniques of spinning, weaving and candlemaking.

Maison Sir Wilfrid Laurier is open year-round.

31 Fort Chambly National Historic Park
Chambly, Quebec

32 km southeast of Montreal

In 1665, four French companies led by their young captain, Jacques de Chambly, sailed up the Rivière des Iroquois and built a fort on a site at the rapids. Today both the rapids and the fort bear Chambly's name.

The first fort was built of logs and served to safeguard the garrison and nearby settlers from Indian attack. Chambly started a settlement near the fort which was the first permanent European settlement on the river. It later grew into the town of Chambly.

A fire accidentally started by the chaplain destroyed the fort in 1702, leaving the settlement vulnerable to British attack. A second log fort was hastily built but it was replaced by the present stone fortification in 1709.

In 1760 a British force stormed and captured the fort, which surrendered without firing a shot. Following the fall of New France later that year, Fort Chambly was occupied by British troops. American rebels joined by local supporters succeeded in taking the fort in 1775. However sickness and British reinforcements forced them to retreat the following year.

After 1777, only small detachments occupied the fort. During the War of 1812, the fort served as a supply centre for a small group of British soldiers stationed there. Only a token force remained after the war and the military importance of the fort declined in the 19th century.

Supported by four bastions, the fort's stone walls measure 13 m high by 13 m long. Inside are the remains of storerooms and living quarters. Displays and audio-visual presentations describe Fort Chambly's historic past.

Fort Chambly is open year-round.

32 Fort Lennox National Historic Park
Ile-au-Noix, Quebec

48 km southeast of Montreal

Situated on the Richelieu River on Ile-aux-Noix are the remains of a British fort.

Originally fortified by the French in 1759, Ile-aux-Noix served as a defensive position for French garrisons. British forces attacked and captured the island the following year and destroyed its fortifications.

During the American Revolutionary War, an invading American army used the unoccupied island as their base while they advanced down the Richelieu River. After recapturing the island in 1776 the British built new fortifications on it.

Ile-aux-Noix again served as a British naval base during the War of 1812. The fortifications were repaired and barracks, a hospital and store-houses were constructed. The British also built a shipyard which turned out a number of warships including the largest warship on Lake Champlain, a 1 200 t, 36-gun frigate named *Confiance*. The ship was captured in the Battle of Plattsburg.

Fort Lennox, named for Charles Lennox, the Duke of Richmond and a Governor General of Canada, was constructed between 1819 and 1828.

The fort's strategic importance declined after the completion of the Chambly Canal, but it was garrisoned until 1870.

The square fort has steep earthen ramparts surrounded by a wide moat. Inside are officers' quarters, barracks, a guardhouse, a powder magazine and ordnance stores. Some of the buildings contain museum displays and some have restored interiors.

33 Les Forges du Saint-Maurice National Historic Park

Trois-Rivières, Quebec

Canada's first iron-making industry began in the 1730's in the Mauricie region of Quebec, north of Trois-Rivières. Les Forges du Saint-Maurice stand as the remains of this once major operation which contributed to the economic, social and political life of the region for over 150 years.

A combination of bog iron deposits, an abundant supply of fuel and water and nearby river transportation contributed to the choice of this site for an iron-making industry in 1729.

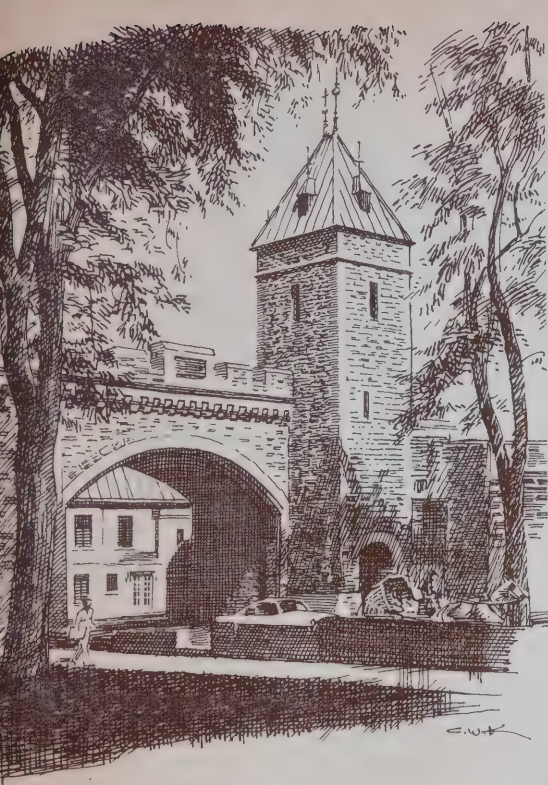
Over its long history, Les Forges have been owned and leased by both governments and private companies. A wide range of products was produced such as iron bars, cauldrons, kettles, ploughshares, heating stoves and cannons.

Les Forges underwent their greatest territorial, economic and social expansion between 1793 and 1845 during the administration of Matthew Bell. In the first 14 years of his partnership with David Munro, 25 new buildings were built on the site. In 1810 about 300 men worked at the Forges.

However, public protest of Bell's power and control over the economic development of the region finally brought an end to his mining rights in 1846. The enterprise was headed by a succession of proprietors until finally abandoned in 1883.

Recent archaeological excavation has unearthed a number of the industrial and domestic buildings. Markers describe life in the village and the significance of the ruins and there are displays and audio-visual presentations in the interpretive centre.

The park is open from May 16 to October 14.



34 The Fortifications of Quebec

Quebec City, Quebec

The fortifications of Quebec were built by the French and the British during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Toward the end of the 17th century, Quebec was the administrative centre of a colony that stretched as far as Louisiana.

Between 1690 and 1713, four projects were undertaken by the French to build fortifications at the west end of the town. Of these works, only la redoute du Cap and le cavalier du Moulin have survived.

The fall of Louisbourg in 1745 spurred the construction of major fortifications between August 1745 and July 1746. Chief engineer Chaussegros de Léry intended to encircle the entire upper town but only completed an enclosure between the Cap-aux-Diamants and the Côte du Palais.

British engineers completed the fortifications from the Côte du Palais to the Chateau Saint-Louis between 1806 and 1812 and built the Martello Towers during the same period. The Citadel was constructed between 1820 and 1832.

Following the departure of British troops from Quebec in 1871, federal authorities, bending to public sentiment, authorized the demolition of the city gates. The Prescott, Hope, St. Louis and Palace gates and their guardhouses were torn down while the ramparts between the Côte du Palais and St. George Street were lowered to chest level.

The walls would have suffered a similar fate but for the intervention of the Earl of Dufferin, the new Governor-General of Canada. Dufferin proposed a plan to preserve the old walls and beautify the city.

The original project, which included the building of a boulevard around the ramparts, erecting bridges or gates where the streets cut through the walls and constructing a chateau, was only partly completed. Work on the fortifications continued long after Dufferin's departure up to the time the St. John's Gate was built in 1939.

35 Artillery Park National Historic Park *Quebec City, Quebec*

Covering about one-sixteenth of the area of old Quebec City, Artillery Park played a major military role during a period of 250 years for French, British and Canadian governments.

In the city's early years, the French erected defences on this site to guard against attack from the St. Charles River. After the fall of Quebec in 1759, the British added to the fortifications and constructed many of the buildings standing today.

Artillery Park was transferred to the Canadian government in 1871, and a factory for the manufacture of munitions was built in 1880. It served as the Dominion Arsenal during both World Wars.

Among the many structures of Artillery Park are the fortification walls; the Dauphine Redoubt, a massive 18th century building; the Palace Gate Barracks, the longest military building erected by the French in North America; the corps de garde built in 1832-33; and the Ordnance Store in St. John's Bastion.

Major restoration work is in progress which may at times limit access to various buildings. A new interpretive centre will be constructed in St. John's Bastion featuring exhibits and audio-visual programs on military life, fortifications and the working conditions of various groups of people.

Artillery Park is open year-round.



36 Cartier-Brébeuf National Historic Park

Quebec City, Quebec

Jacques Cartier spent the winter of 1535-36 at the junction of the St. Charles and Lairet rivers at what is now Quebec City. Ninety years later, Jesuit missionaries, among them Father Jean de Brébeuf, established their residence near the same location which today is part of the Cartier-Brébeuf National Historic Park.

Jacques Cartier was not only the first European to sail up the St. Lawrence River, but also the first European known to have wintered in what is now mainland Canada. It was during the second of his three voyages to Canada that Cartier stopped at the site now commemorated by a park. There he harboured his three ships, La Grande Hermine, La Petite Hermine and L'Emérillon for the winter.

The first Jesuit missionaries arrived in New France in June of 1625 and established a mission not far from Cartier's wintering site. They founded a

seminary for the Indians at the Mission of Notre Dame des Anges which closed after five years. More successful ventures were the founding of a college for the children of settlers and the establishment of a mission for natives living in outlying areas. A cross erected to their memory is the only reminder of their presence.

A full-size replica of Cartier's largest ship, La Grande Hermine, lies at anchor at the mouth of the Lairet River in the park. Visitors can explore the upper decks of the 23 m long vessel, where guides relate the history of Cartier's voyage. An interpretive centre in the park devotes displays to both Cartier and Brébeuf.

Cartier-Brébeuf park is open year-round.

37 National Battlefields Park

Quebec City, Quebec

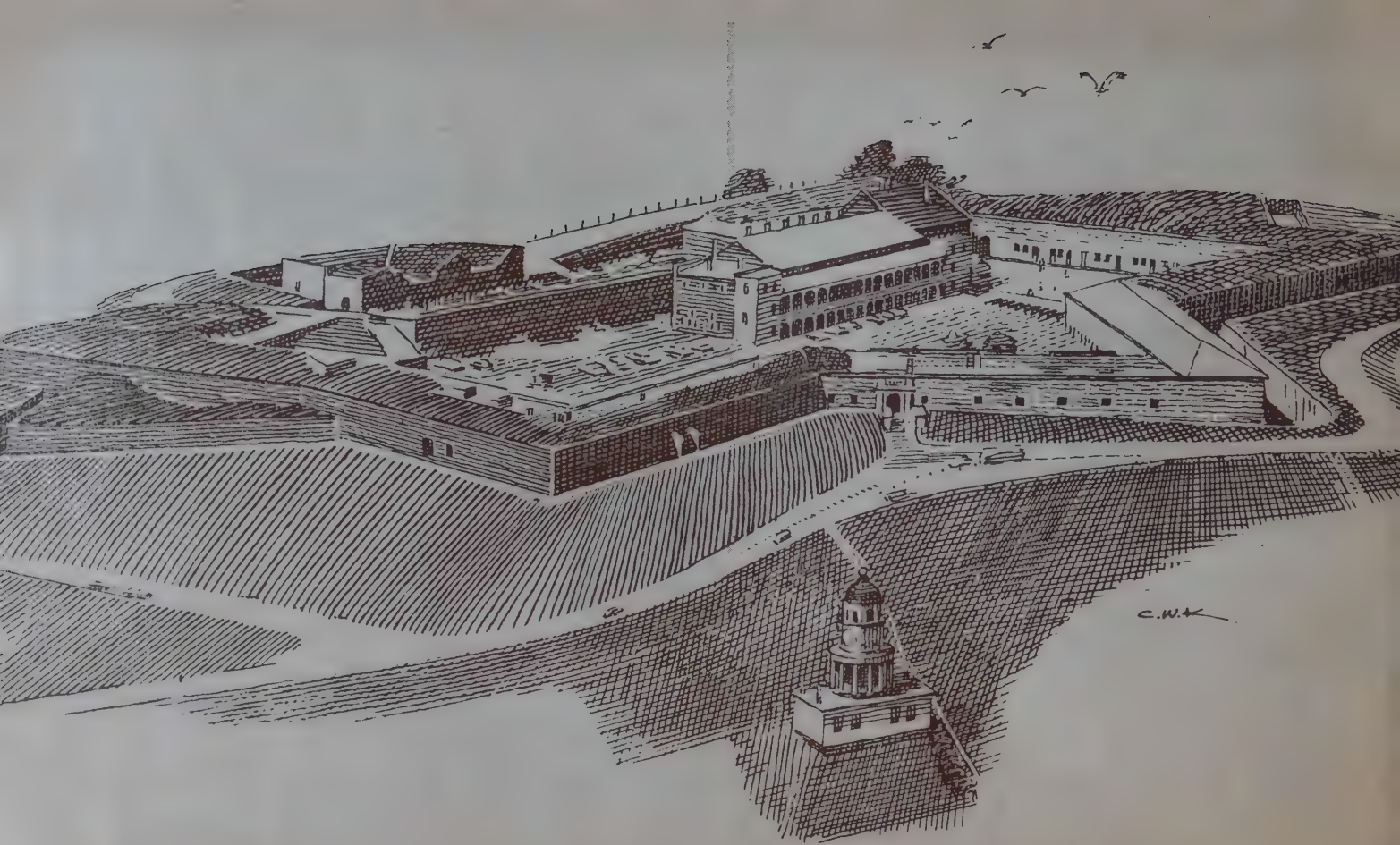
Internationally known as the Plains of Abraham, National Battlefields Park was the site of two major historic battles.

On September 13, 1759, the British army led by General Wolfe scaled the steep cliffs above Quebec to attack a French force commanded by the Marquis de Montcalm. Wolfe was killed in the battle and Montcalm, mortally wounded in the brief struggle, died a few hours later in Quebec. The town surrendered to the British five days later.

In April of the following year, the Chevalier de Lévis successfully recaptured the town in the battle of Ste-Foy. This time the British under General Murray were forced to retreat. However, the arrival of a British fleet turned the tide on Lévis who returned to Montreal. The fall of New France to the British was completed by the following September.

The ninety-five hectare park contains two British Martello Towers and numerous monuments erected in honour of such heroic figures as Wolfe and Montcalm.

The National Battlefields Park is open year-round.



38 St. Andrews Blockhouse National Historic Site

*St. Andrews, New Brunswick
99 km west of Saint John*

When war broke out in 1812, the people of St. Andrews feared an American attack on their isolated town. Batteries were constructed at the east and west points of the community to guard against seaward attack, while a third was built above the town at Joe's Point. A blockhouse was built behind each of the 12 coastal batteries in New Brunswick, including the three of St. Andrews. The West Point Blockhouse is the only surviving example of these fortifications.

Following the War of 1812, a small military detachment stayed on and used the West Point Blockhouse as barracks. The other two blockhouses gradually decayed.

After 1835, the blockhouse was used as a residence. One of its tenants was Sir Leonard Tilley, former premier of the province, who leased the building in 1887.

The blockhouse was declared a national historic site in the early 1960's. Today after restoration work, the two-storey wooden building looks much as it did in the early 19th century.

Guides and an interpretive display explain the role of the blockhouse and its history.

39 Carleton Martello Tower National Historic Site

Saint John, New Brunswick

To guard against an American attack on New Brunswick's commercial and military stores during the War of 1812, the British built the Carleton Martello Tower. Overlooking the western approaches of Saint John Harbour, the tower offers an outstanding view of the city and the sea.

Except for a rooftop addition that served as the harbour's fire control centre in World War Two, the outside of the 9 m tower looks much as it did when it guarded Saint John more than 165 years ago. Inside, historic relics from the early 1800's are displayed on the barrack floor. The upper floor houses objects that recount the tower's history. A cadet, dressed in the period costume of the 104th Regiment of Foot, greets visitors to this historic site.

40 Fort Beauséjour National Historic Park

Aulac, New Brunswick

211 km east of Saint John

The French built Fort Beauséjour in 1751 in response to the construction of Fort Lawrence by the British a few miles to the east, hoping the fort would serve to defend French territories near the Bay of Fundy.

The British succeeded in capturing the fort in June 1755, and renamed it Fort Cumberland. In 1776, during the American Revolutionary War, the fort was unsuccessfully besieged by a group of New-Englanders led by a Nova Scotian, Jonathan Eddy. No other battles were fought on this site and the fort was finally abandoned in 1833.

By the turn of the 20th century, most of the buildings had decayed, leaving only the pentagon-shaped outline formed by the earthworks, sections of walls and one of the casemates. The fort was made a National Historic Park in 1926.

In recent years, extensive archaeology has unearthed the remains of many of the fort's original features, which have in most cases, been stabilized, restored or reconstructed. The system of entrenchments raised by the British after they captured the fort is located to the north. A museum containing historic artifacts and a modern interpretive display, helps to tell the story of the fort's past.

41 Fort Amherst National Historic Park *16 km east of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island*

Located in Fort Amherst National Historic Park are Port La Joye, the old French capital of Prince Edward Island, and Fort Amherst, built by the British after they conquered the island in 1758.

In 1720 about 300 French settlers sailed into what is now Charlottetown harbour. At a site on the southwestern shore, Port La Joye, a fishing and farming community was founded. It was the first permanent settlement on the island, then named Isle St. Jean, and later became its first capital.

Famine forced most of the original families to abandon the land in 1737. Eight years later, a force of New Englanders captured the island and burned the settlement. Isle St. Jean was returned to the French in 1748 and the capital was rebuilt. However, the British captured Port La Joye ten years later, ending French rule on the island. Fort Amherst was built but it quickly fell to ruin after 1763 when peace returned.

Nothing remains of the fort except for the earthworks. However, an appreciation of the fort's history can be gained by viewing the displays on the site. The grounds afford a picturesque view of the countryside and the harbour.

42 Province House National Historic Site

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
Birthplace of Confederation and the seat of the provincial legislature since 1847, Province House stands as an important historic landmark in Charlottetown.

In 1864, eight delegates from the province of Canada (now Ontario and Quebec) met here with representatives from the three maritime colonies of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island to discuss proposals for the union of the colonies. Three years later a Canadian nation became a reality with the passage of the British North America Act.

A Yorkshire-born island resident, Isaac Smith, produced the design for the building. Although originally intended to house the island's public records, Province House as built also contained offices, the two houses of the Legislature and the law courts. The three-storey sandstone building was constructed by island craftsmen between 1843 and 1847.

Although the interior has undergone extensive renovation, the Confederation Chamber where the Fathers of Confederation met, has been preserved much as it was in 1864, complete with what are believed to be the original table and chairs. The history of Province House is related by guides and through displays on the main floor. Restoration work may restrict access to some sections of the building.

Province House is open to visitors year-round.

43 Fort Edward National Historic Site
Windsor, Nova Scotia
76 km west of Halifax

Situated on a hill overlooking the Avon and Windsor rivers, Fort Edward served as an important British base in Nova Scotia. Built in 1750, the fort safeguarded the British overland route to Halifax and helped to establish a strong British presence in the Piziquid area, one of the major Acadian settlements.

Between 1755 and 1762, Fort Edward served as the centre for the deportation of Acadians in the Piziquid area who refused to pledge allegiance to the British Crown. Following the expulsion of the Acadians and the British victory at Louisbourg in 1758, the fort ceased to be of strategic importance. During the First World War, the officers' quarters were used as a hospital for people suffering from infectious diseases.

Originally the fort consisted of a blockhouse, barracks, officers' quarters and storehouses. The blockhouse and the outline of a ditch are all that remain of the original fort. Built of heavy timbers transported from Halifax, the two-storey blockhouse is the oldest surviving fortification of its kind in Canada.

The fort's history is described in an interpretive display.

44 Grand Pré National Historic Park

100 km northwest of Halifax, Nova Scotia

The Acadians of Grand Pré came to the Minas Basin of Nova Scotia from Port Royal in the 1670's. Grand Pré grew to become the largest settlement in Acadia.

In 1713 Acadia was ceded to the British. When war with France broke out in 1755, the British declared that those Acadians who refused to take the oath of allegiance would be expelled.

About 2 000 Acadians were deported from Grand Pré in 1755. Families were separated and their members dispersed to other British territories. However, many returned and their descendants today live in parts of what was once Acadia.

A replica of a stone church stands as a memorial to the Acadian culture and contains a number of displays. The American poet Longfellow wrote "Evangeline" a poem about a fictional person who typified the Acadian deportation. A bronze statue of Evangeline was cast by Phillipe Hébert and his son, descendants of one of the first families to settle in Port Royal.

45 Fort Anne National Historic Park

Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia

201 km west of Halifax

The destruction of the first Port Royal in 1613 halted French attempts at settlement in the area for some time. In the 1630's a new Port Royal was established, not at the site of de Monts' habitation, but on the site of the modern town of Annapolis Royal. The new Port Royal served as the first seat of European government in Nova Scotia. The fort we now know as Fort Anne was built by the French between 1702 and 1708 to protect the new settlement.

Since Port Royal was easily approached by sea the fort was designed primarily to guard the town against naval attack. The fort consisted of a four-bastion earthwork surrounded by a dry ditch. Its batteries were concentrated on the rivers leaving the landward approach vulnerable to assault.



Fort Anne

Two attacks by New England forces were repelled in 1707, but the town and fort were captured by New England troops and British marines in 1710. Port Royal was renamed Annapolis Royal by the British who called the fort, Fort Anne in honour of their queen.

For the next half century the British had to contend with crumbling fortifications, frequent ambushes by the French, unrest among the Acadians and internal military problems.

Although the earthwork defences have survived, only the powder magazine in the southwest bastion and the storehouse in the northwest bastion remain of the original buildings. A reconstruction of the stately officers' quarters contains exhibits on the natural history of the area, maps, ships and other aspects of local history.

Fort Anne is one of the most picturesque parks in Canada. Located in the centre of Annapolis Royal, it offers a sweeping view of the beautiful Annapolis Basin.

46 Port Royal Habitation National Historic Park

Port Royal, Nova Scotia

In 1604 a group of colonists, led by Sieur de Monts and accompanied by explorer Samuel de Champlain, set out from France to develop the lucrative fur trade in the new world. After passing an uncomfortable winter on an island located off the coast of Maine, the survivors relocated to the more hospitable Annapolis Basin in Nova Scotia. There in 1605, de Monts fashioned the settlement of Port Royal, one of the first European settlements in the New World.

When de Monts' trading monopoly was cancelled two years later, the entire community returned to France. In 1610, Baron de Poutrincourt brought over a group of settlers who reoccupied the colony. Three years later, a band of Virginian raiders plundered Port Royal and burned down the buildings.

Though its lifespan was short, Port Royal is noted for being the first permanent European settlement to be established north of Florida. Here Marc Lescarbot wrote, produced and directed "Theatre of Neptune", the first play staged in North America, and Champlain founded the Order of Good Cheer, Canada's first social club.

The Port Royal Habitation was re-constructed in 1938-39 using local materials and based on descriptions and drawings by Champlain and Lescarbot and an archaeological survey of the original foundations. The exterior of the habitation, with its steeply inclined roofs, tall stone chimneys, a few small windows and restricted access, resembles a fort. Inside, the atmosphere of 17th century Port Royal is recreated in the sparsely furnished quarters of an early French settlement.

40

47 Halifax Citadel **National Historic Park** *Halifax, Nova Scotia*

The massive defences of the Halifax Citadel offer one of the best surviving examples of 19th century fortifications in Canada. The present fort, completed in 1856, is the fourth and most extensive structure to be erected on this site overlooking Halifax and the harbour.

From the founding of Halifax as a naval base in 1749, Citadel Hill provided an ideal location for defences. Construction of the present citadel began in 1828. By 1870 the advent of rifled artillery had rendered it obsolete.

During World War One it served as a detention camp for prisoners of war, a signal post and a radio station. In World War Two anti-aircraft guns and searchlights were installed. None of its defences were ever tested by enemy attack.

Today, Citadel Hill crowns the city of Halifax and offers visitors a sweeping view of the city and harbour. Within its walls can be found a superb collection of military uniforms and weapons, contained in display areas operated by the Nova Scotia Museum and the Army Museum.



Port Royal Habitation

Its geometrical shape and three outlying defences (ravelins) are readily visible from a road that winds around the citadel. Numerous casemates (bomb-proof vaulted chambers) are located beneath the defences.

Although most of the massive stone fortress has been kept in good repair, major restoration work which will take place in the next few years may necessitate closing certain sections of the citadel to the public for short periods.

The Halifax Citadel is open year-round.

48 Prince of Wales Martello Tower National Historic Site

Halifax, Nova Scotia

The Prince of Wales Martello Tower, built in 1796-97, was the first tower of its kind in North America. It was considered the prototype of a new system of coastal defences then being designed by British military engineers. Nearly 200 similar towers were constructed along the British coast in the first decade of the 19th century in response to the threat of a Napoleonic attack. A total of 16 Martello towers were built in Canada, five of them in Halifax.

The tower was a formidable defensive structure measuring 22 m in diameter and 8 m in height. Masonry walls, about 2 m thick, provided good protection against enemy cannon fire. The tower's own battery consisted of 10 guns, six on the terreplein and four on the barrack level.

Today the tower stands largely enclosed by the forest amid the quiet surroundings of Point Pleasant Park. Both first and second storeys as well as the terreplein (the upper surface where the guns are mounted) are open to the public. Exhibits describe the tower's history, architectural features and its importance as a defence.

49 York Redoubt National Historic Site

*6 km from downtown Halifax,
Nova Scotia*

York Redoubt first served as a defensive post when Major-General James Ogilvie established a two gun battery there in 1793. The battery was enlarged to eight guns in 1796 by Prince Edward, Duke of Kent. Two years later a Martello tower was built, its walls measuring 9 m high and 1 m thick. For the next 81 years, the tower played an important role in warning the other defences of approaching vessels.

Between the 1860's and the end of the century, York Redoubt's fortifications were expanded and strengthened. During this period the city grew to become one of the most heavily guarded naval bases in the British Empire.

Although its strategic importance waned with the departure of the Royal Navy in 1906, York Redoubt continued to serve, firstly, as a training ground for Canadian troops during World War One and, secondly, as a Fortress Command Post and co-ordinating centre for Halifax defences during World War Two.

There are historical displays in the Fire Command Post and Fortress Plotting Room, both built during the Second World War.

50 Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Park

*35 km southeast of Sydney,
Nova Scotia*

In 1713, France was forced to relinquish some of her coastal colonies to the British by the Treaty of Utrecht. Seeking to protect their remaining fisheries and colonies in North America, the French began to build the Fortress of Louisbourg in 1720. For the next 25 years the town flourished as a fishing port and trade centre.

42 Louisbourg was an impressive and in many ways extravagant settlement, renowned as a centre of commerce. However, its glory was short-lived. In 1745 an army of New England volunteers with British naval support attacked and captured the fortress. In 1748 it was returned to the French by a peace treaty but was recaptured in 1758 by the British who destroyed its fortifications to prevent a French return.



Fortress of Louisbourg

Louisbourg was declared a national historic site in 1928 and a national historic park in 1940. Today about one-fifth of the original town stands rebuilt to its appearance prior to the siege of 1745 as the result of a reconstruction project started in 1961. Men, women and children dressed in period costume add the final touch of realism to this remarkable reconstruction of the original structure.

Visitors travel by bus to the Dauphin Gate from the modern visitor reception centre where a slide show and exhibits prepare them to experience the park.

Visitors can buy bread from a bakery made to an 18th century recipe and sit down to an 18th century meal at the Hotel de la Marine restaurant located inside the fortress. Reproductions of period articles such as pewter mugs, plates and spoons can be bought from a shop in the park.

Overnight accommodation is available in the town of Louisbourg and in the city of Sydney, 35 km from the park.

The Fortress of Louisbourg is open from May 15 to October 15. An admission fee is charged.

51 Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Park

75 km west of Sydney, Nova Scotia

Alexander Graham Bell, inventor, teacher and researcher, is most famous for inventing the telephone. He also made important contributions in the fields of medicine, aeronautics, marine engineering and genetics. His long list of achievements include suggesting the use of radium in the treatment of cancer, inventing the surgical probe and designing a hydrofoil in collaboration with F.W. (Casey) Baldwin.

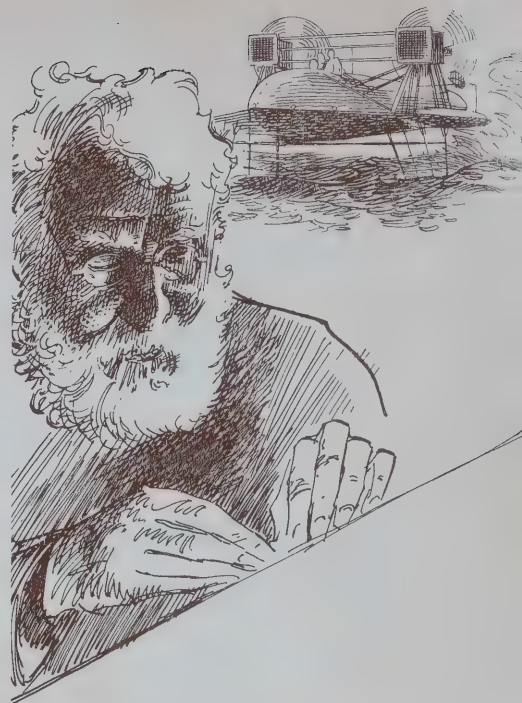
Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1847. His family emigrated to Canada when he was a boy and settled in Brantford, Ontario. In 1871 Bell left to teach in Boston and eventually became an American citizen. However, while visiting Baddeck with his family in 1885, Bell was so captivated with the beauty of Cape Breton Island that he later built a summer estate there called Beinn Bhreagh. Here Bell conducted many experiments and produced a number of inventions.

One of his greatest achievements was in the area of helping the deaf to overcome their barrier of silence. He introduced the blind, deaf mute Helen Keller to her teacher Annie Sullivan and remained Keller's confidant and friend for most of her life. He taught deaf

children, founded a school in Boston to train teachers for the deaf and was appointed Professor of Vocal Physiology at the University of Boston in 1873. Bell died in 1922 at the age of 75.

Some of the items on display in the Bell complex are models of early telephones, kites, aeronautical equipment and a vacuum jacket, forerunner of the iron lung. The building is being expanded to accommodate more exhibits. One project involves placing the remains of the Bell-Baldwin HD-4 hydrofoil in a special hall with a replica beside it. The HD-4 set a world speed record of 114 km/h in 1919.

Alexander Graham Bell park is open year-round.



52 Port au Choix National Historic Park
850 km northwest of St. John's,
Newfoundland

The small Newfoundland fishing village of Port au Choix is the site of a burial ground of the Maritime Archaic Indians who inhabited the Newfoundland and Labrador coasts more than 5 000 years ago.

In 1962, three Maritime Archaic Indian cemeteries containing the remains of 100 individuals and numerous artifacts were discovered at Port au Choix. Many of the graves contained hunting weapons such as harpoons, lances, stone-tipped darts and snares.

Judging from their skeletal remains, the Indians were robust people and in height the men and women averaged 1.7 m and 1.6 m respectively. They survived by hunting such animals as caribou, seals, walrus and sea birds, and by fishing.

Artifacts are on display in the visitor interpretation centre.

53 L'Anse aux Meadows
National Historic Park
1 100 km northwest of St. John's,
Newfoundland

A grassy plain at the northernmost tip of Newfoundland's Great Northern Peninsula is the site of the oldest known European settlement in the New World. Beneath a number of grass-covered mounds, archaeologists have discovered the only authenticated remains of a Viking period Norse settlement in North America.

The main portion of the site was excavated between 1961 and 1968 by a Norwegian team led by Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad. They discovered the location while searching for Vinland, the site of the first Viking settlement in North America.

Digging has uncovered the remains of six houses, a smithy, sauna and cooking pits. The design and features of the excavated houses and the items found in them, such as a spinning whorl, a bronze pin and a stone lamp, attest to the settlement's Norse origins. Radio-carbon dating of bone charcoal and turf indicate that a Norse settlement was established at this site around the year A.D. 1000.



An appreciation of the way of life of the Norse settlers is offered in the visitor interpretation centre, where exhibits display reproductions of collected artifacts. Picnicking and camping facilities are located at Pistolet Bay and commercial accommodation is available at St. Anthony, 48 km from the park.

54 Signal Hill National Historic Park

St. John's, Newfoundland

Guarding the entrance to the city and harbour of St. John's, Signal Hill was the site of the last battle of the Seven Years War in North America, fought on September 18, 1762.

When Europeans began to frequent St. John's in the early 1500's, the hill was used as a lookout and later as a signal station. Information about the arrival and departure of ships at St. John's was relayed from Signal Hill until 1958.

The guns of the Queen's Battery, dating back to 1796 overlook the harbour channel, while closeby stand the remains of a British barracks, powder magazine, platforms and parapet. Ruins of other fortifications can be found throughout the park.

In 1901, Guglielmo Marconi chose this site for the first transatlantic transmission of signals by wireless telegraph. The letter "S", transmitted by Morse Code from Cornwall, England, was received by Marconi as three faint dots. A monument commemorating Marconi's achievement stands atop the hill.

Cabot Tower was built between 1897 and 1900 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and the 400th anniversary of John Cabot's voyage to the New World. A signal station until 1958, it now houses an exhibit dealing with the role of communications on Signal Hill.

Displays and audio-visual presentations in the visitor interpretation centre describe the history of Signal Hill. Signal Hill is open year-round.

55 Cape Spear Lighthouse National Historic Park

16 km south of St. John's, Newfoundland

Perched at the easternmost point of North America, Cape Spear is one of the oldest surviving lighthouses in Canada, having served as a beacon for the harbour from 1836 to 1955.

The operation and design of the light has changed over the years, keeping up with technological advances. In 1912 the original reflectors were replaced by glass prisms to produce a more intense light. Electricity and a small motor were introduced in 1929. Formerly, combustible fuels and a system of weights had provided the power and drive for the rotary apparatus.

During World War Two a coastal battery was constructed here to guard allied shipping against the threat of German submarines. After the war all but two gun emplacements were dismantled. Today a modern tower has replaced the old lighthouse but the lighting apparatus is still in use, having been transferred to the new tower in 1955.

The original design of the building consisted of a square lightkeeper's residence built around the tower, so that the top third, which housed the light, protruded through the roof. Succeeding generations of lightkeepers made additions to the residence for their families, creating a rambling layout.

The old lighthouse is undergoing restoration and is not yet open to the public. However, visitors can view the exterior of the square, two-storey structure and are free to explore the grounds which contain two gun emplacements from World War Two, a modern light-house and a residence.



56 Castle Hill National Historic Park *120 km southwest of St. John's, Newfoundland*

In the mid-1600's the French court, looking for a major base for its Newfoundland fishing fleets, selected a small fishing village called Plaisance. It had an excellent harbour, a broad beach for drying cod and a convenient supply of fresh water.

The French realized the value of the area as a fishing base and began to fortify it in the 1660's. The site was also flanked by a prominent hill which served in the 1690's as the location of important defences for the town. A small redoubt called Le Gaillardin, built on the second highest hill in the park, protected the hill from enemy capture. The main defence, Fort Royal, had massive walls built of rubble. Later additions included a detached redoubt that provided protection for the harbour and several outlying batteries.

When Plaisance was ceded to the British under the terms of the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, the town was renamed Placentia and the hill on which the fort stood became Castle Hill. With the conquest of North America by Britain followed by the development of St. John's, Placentia's strategic importance slowly declined until the last troops departed in 1811.

Castle Hill's strategic value can be best appreciated by walking among the ruins and observing its commanding position overlooking the town, the bay and the countryside. Picnic facilities and walking trails connect the various fortifications in the park. Inside Fort Royal, are the remains of barracks, a powder magazine, guard rooms, a blockhouse and an early hearth.

The park is open from June 1st to October 31st.

Cape Spear Lighthouse

